

VZCZCXRO6206  
PP RUEHMA RUEHPA  
DE RUEHUJA #1261 1821026  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 301026Z JUN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3255  
INFO RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 9515  
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

UNCLAS ABUJA 001261

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR OES/ENV JBENFORADO AND HLEE  
DEPT PASS TO USTR-AGAMA  
DOC FOR 3317/ITA/OA/KBURRESS, 3130/USFC/OIO/ANESA/DHARRIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ENRG](#) [ECON](#) [SENV](#) [NI](#)  
SUBJECT: NIGERIA: SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 65271

¶1. In response to reftel questions, the palm oil plant is indigenous to Nigeria, and palm oil is widely used domestically for cooking. Local demand for palm oil is high, and local production supplies can't meet demand. A report by the Agro-Raw Material Survey indicates that Nigeria produces 785,000 metric tons (mt) of palm oil from 2.5 million hectares. Local demand is estimated to be in excess of 1 million mt per year, leaving a significant deficit.

¶2. Regarding reftel query on whether sustainable systems of production are in place, while comprehensive information on palm oil operations in Nigeria is not available, there are wide variations in systems of production, ranging from wild groves, small villages to some commercial plantations on large estates.

¶3. Addressing the issue of reftel request on how the Department may provide assistance, USG support to the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) offices in Ibadan for adding palm oil to their Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) would have significant impact on developing the palm oil sector, both in Nigeria and the larger region. Currently, USDA and AID provide funding for cassava research. The Embassy supports additional funding to AID and USDA to support IITA in adding palm oil to their STCP.

SANDERS